

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing chemical pulp and a xylose solution by the use of alkaline or neutral cooking and a post hydrolysis of the pulp, wherein the post hydrolysis is preformed directly on the pulp by the use of an acid by post-hydrolyzing the pulp with an acid until a xylose yield of no less than 5% is obtained, while the viscosity of the pulp remains at a value of no less than 300 ml/g, followed by the recovery of chemical pulp and a xylose solution.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in [claims] claim 1, wherein the pulp is post-hydrolyzed with an acid until a xylose yield of no less than 10% is obtained, while the viscosity of the pulp remains at a value of no less than 450 ml/g.
4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the acid treatment is carried out with formic acid.
5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the content of the acid solution is within the range of 50 to 100%.

6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the content of the acid solution is within the range 75 to 90%.
7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the acid treatment temperature is between 90 to 130°C.
8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the acid treatment temperature is between 100 to 120°C.
9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the duration of the acid treatment is between 15 min and 4 h.
10. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the duration of the acid treatment is between 20 min and 1.5 h.
11. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the acid treatment is performed with a bisulphite solution.
12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the SO₂ content of the bisulphite solution is within the range from about 1 to about 5%.
13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the SO₂ content of the bisulphite solution is about 3%.

14. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein amount of bound SO₂ is about 10%.

15. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the acid treatment temperature is about 110 to 150°C.

16. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the acid treatment temperature is about 125 to 145°C.

17. (Original): The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the duration of the acid treatment is 1 to 3h.

18. (Currently Amended): [A] The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the acid treatment is performed after cooking.

19. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the acid treatment is performed after oxygen delignification.

20. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the acid treatment is performed after bleaching.

21. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cooking is performed by the sulphate method, whereby the post hydrolysis is carried out directly on the pulp by the use of an acid.

22. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein birch is used as the raw material in the cooking.

23. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein after the acid treatment the obtained xylose solution and the chemical pulp are separated.

24. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the acid used in the acid treatment is separated from the obtained xylose solution.

25. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the separated acid is recycled and reused in the hydrolysis.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim [26] 1, wherein the obtained chemical pulp is mixed with non-acid-treated pulp.

28 – 30. (Cancelled).